October 13, 2006

Public Notice for 401 Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)
Martin Avenue Flood Control Project,
Sonoma County, WDID No. 1B06153WNSO

On September 29, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Carrie Lukacic, Senior Environmental Planner, Winzler & Kelly Consulting Engineers, on behalf of the City of Rohnert Park (Applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Martin Avenue Flood Control Project (Project), Sonoma County. The Project will disturb Waters of the State and Waters of the U.S. associated with the Laguna de Santa Rosa Hydrologic Sub Area No. 114.21, within the Russian River Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The proposed Project is located in Sonoma County, on Hinebaugh Creek, at south of Martin Avenue and west of Labath Avenue, Rohnert Park, latitude 38°21'14" N, longitude -122°43'32" W, assessor parc el number 143-040-036, Sonoma County, California. The purpose of the project is to reduce annual flooding to the Martin Avenue business park. Flooding occurs when the flows in Hinebaugh Creek back up into the storm drain system that is designed to drain the business park. The project consists of installation of three steel pipes, each approximately 6 feet long, that will be sliplined into each of the three existing 42-inch, 48-inch and 54-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) outfall pipes. A flap gate will be attached to the end of each of the sliplined pipes. The CMP outfall pipes currently contain accumulated silt and water which will require removal prior to the installation of the slipline pipe and flap gate assembly. Removal of water and silt will be accomplished with a vactor (vacuum) truck, and the water and silt vacuumed from the site will be deposited at the City of Rohnert Park's sewer plant storage facility, located at 201 Jimmie Rogers Lane, Rohnert Park. The area at the outfall requires dewatering to enable workers to access the site to install the flap gate. In order to dewater the area immediately adjacent to each of the outfall pipes, a small coffer dam (approximately 5 feet wide by 5 feet long) constructed of sandbags will be temporarily installed. Once the outfall areas are dewatered and desilted using the vactor truck as discussed above, the slipline pipe will be lowered to the installation site using a boom truck which will be parked on the adjacent access road. The slipline pipe will be lowered and then guided into place by 2-3 workers. Once the pipe is placed, workers will attach the pipe to the existing CMP and the flap gates will be attached to the end of the slipline pipe. After the slipline pipe and flap gates have been installed, the sandbag coffer dam will be removed.

The installation of flap gates will limit the amount of annual flooding which occurs in the Martin Avenue industrial complex. The flap gates are a temporary solution to the flooding problem and will become part of the permanent solution that the City will plan and design over the winter for construction next summer. Temporary trailer mounted pumps and piping that will convey accumulated storm water to Hinebaugh Creek may be installed in the business park when water levels in the creek are unfavorable for gravity flow. Necessary measures shall be taken to assure that any discharge from the temporary trailer mounted storm water pumps, shall be free of contamination or turbidity. The discharge shall not cause scour or erosion. The flap gates and slipline pipe will be removed from the site adjacent to Hinebaugh Creek and used again near Martin Avenue when the City installs a series of storm water pump stations.

The City of Rohnert Park has filed a Notice of Exemption (Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4);15269(b)(c))) with the County of Sonoma. The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined the Project qualifies for Statutory Exemption Section 15269, Emergency Project, pursuant to the CEQA guidelines.

The Project is scheduled to begin mid-October, 2006, and end by December 31, 2006. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3858 (a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provides public notice of an application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, nut no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification." The Project is considered an emergency because flooding of the business park will likely occur several times during the winter season when flows in Hinebaugh Creek prevent drainage of storm water from the Martin Avenue area. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 or at sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.